

state to teachers as time goes on. It's watered down to \$20 million. You know, the proponents are willing to go with that because you know, as I know, and everyone knows what happens in subsequent years. Those things increase and we are continually taking away the authority of the school board to decide what is the best use for that money out there. This is your alternative, to decide whether or not you want to do that. You know, if you want to do that, that's fine, but I don't think that's the right way to go. I think we should continue to rely on that school board to make those decisions. This adds the same amount of money that we're talking about, \$20 million to the state aid formula and that's my story. I would hope that you would adopt this amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion on the Lamb amendment. Senator Abboud, followed by Senator Haberman.

SENATOR ABBOUD: Mr. President, colleagues, this is an interesting amendment. It's interesting because today, as I understand, the Appropriations Committee is going to be finalizing their budget and we'll have to make some decisions on how to best go about spending local aid money. I think really what this bill is going to come down to is it's going to be a fight between the homestead exemption that is currently moving its way towards Final Reading or a teacher stipend as is proposed in LB 89. I made a commitment this year to see that property taxes were reduced or at least the Legislature would attempt to make some reduction in our property taxes. I don't feel that at this particular time LB 89 will result in a reduction in property taxes for my local school districts and with that I am very concerned. Originally, 89 had some proposals in there for state aid and in that manner we would have seen some reduction in property taxes, at least I would hope. I think that the proponents of this particular proposal have not stated that property taxes would be reduced with the passage of LB 89 and that's probably the flaw in the bill. We have to make a decision as to our constituents' concerns. Are they concerned that teachers that are making a level of...are we concerned that teachers at this particular time are making a level of payment that is not sufficient or are we finding that our constituents are more concerned about their property taxes that are continuing to rise year after year? I think if you had an opinion poll on those two issues, I think you would find that they are more concerned about their property taxes. They're more concerned about the money going back into their pocket.